

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VANCOU 01275 231621Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 OPR-02 SY-05
/058 W

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R 222330Z DEC 77
FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3935

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 1275

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, CA
SUBJECT: B.C. TEL WORKERS' DEMONSTRATION AT CONGEN

REF: BUCHANAN/CLEMMONS AND BUCHANAN/PLACKE TELCONS OF
DECEMBER 22

1. APPROXIMATELY 40 TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS UNION (TWU) MEMBERS
CONDUCTED SHORT (45 MINUTES) AND PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE
CONGEN TODAY (DECEMBER 22). UNION REPRESENTS SOME 9,000 B.C.
TELEPHONE COMPANY EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE BEEN IN STRIKE/LOCKOUT
SITUATION SINCE LATE NOVEMBER. MAIN ISSUE IN DISPUTE IS B.C.
TEL'S DESIRE TO LIFT A CONTRACTING-OUT CLAUSE IN LABOR CONTRACT
(WHICH EXPIRED DECEMBER 31, 1976) WHICH LIMITS THE AMOUNT OF OUTSIDE
WORK B.C. TEL MAY TENDER. UNION SEES THIS SIX-YEAR OLD CLAUSE AS
SOLE PROTECTION FOR JOB SECURITY.

2. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S PROTEST AT CONGEN WAS TO DRAW MEDIA
ATTENTION TO FACT B.C. TEL IS SUBSIDIARY OF U.S. FIRM GENERAL
TELEPHONE AND ELECTRONICS LIMITED AND TO CHARGE THAT U.S. PARENT
IS DIRECTING B.C. TEL'S ALLEGED HARD STANCE FROM NEW YORK.

3. UPON REQUEST, I RECEIVED TWO TWU REPRESENTATIVES WHO ASKED
THAT THE FOLLOWING PETITION BE FORWARDED THROUGH USG CHANNELS:
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BEGIN QUOTE. THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS UNION WISHES TO
SETTLE THE LOCKOUT AT B.C. TELEPHONE. WE BELIEVE THE HEAVY HAND
OF GENERAL TELEPHONE OF NEW YORK IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE
POSITION TAKEN BY ITS B.C. TEL SUBSIDIARY IN THE DISPUTE. WE
ASK THE AMERICAN CONSUL IN VANCOUVER TO CONVEY TO G.T.E. OUR
BELIEF THAT CANADIANS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES
IN THE CIVILIZED MANNER THAT GENERALLY PREVAILS IN THIS COUNTRY.

(SIGNED) THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. END QUOTE. I UNDERTOOK ONLY TO TRANSMIT MESSAGE TO EMBASSY; THE UNION REPS EXPRESSED COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH THAT ASSURANCE. THEY ADDED THAT GTE WAS DISPLAYING LACK OF APPRECIATION FOR LABOR CLIMATE IN CANADA AND B.C. IN PARTICULAR AND THAT POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS CONFRONTATION IN THE NEW YEAR WAS CONSIDERABLE IF DISPUTE NOT SETTLED SHORTLY.

4. MEDIA COVERAGE OF DEMONSTRATION WAS FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL AND IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR COMMENT CONGEN ISSUED FOLLOWING RELEASE THROUGH BPAO: BEGIN QUOTE. THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS UNION HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN PRESENTING A FORMAL STATEMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL. WE ARE ACCEPTING THAT STATEMENT WITHOUT COMMENT ON ITS CONTENTS. WE WISH TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS A MATTER INVOLVING LABOR AND MANAGEMENT IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN CANADA. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS NOT AND CANNOT BE A PARTY IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. END QUOTE.

5. VANCOUVER POLICE AND RCMP PROVIDED USUAL AND EFFICIENT ASSISTANCE AND THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS.
BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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